

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A polymeric material vehicle barrier having at least one raised element, comprising:

a barrier film having at least one layer including an interpolymer material; at least one rib defining the raised element operably extending outwardly from a first face of the barrier film, the rib operably positioned adjacent proximate an outer perimeter of the film, the rib including: [[; and]]

a substantially non-deflectable flat engagement surface;
a pair of opposed walls each connected between the engagement surface and the barrier film; and

a width of the engagement surface selectable to ensure each of the opposed walls deflects outwardly with no substantial deflection of the engagement surface when the engagement surface contacts a vehicle surface; and

at least one drawn form positioned adjacent proximate the at least one rib and extending outwardly from a second face of the barrier film, the second face directed opposite to the at least one rib first face;

wherein the width of the engagement surface of the rib operably forms defines a seal without the use of a sealing material between the engagement surface and with a first body member of a vehicle, the drawn form operably enhancing formation of the seal.

2. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 1, wherein the barrier film comprises a first layer having the interpolymer material and a second layer.

3. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 2, wherein the second layer comprises a polymeric material.

4. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 3, wherein the polymeric material comprises a polyethylene material.

5. (currently amended) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 1, wherein the drawn form is in operable contact with a second body member of the vehicle to maintain a ~~substantially consistent~~ sealing force along the seal formed by the ~~male formed~~ rib.

6. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 1, wherein the rib comprises a male formed rib having a substantially uniform wall thickness throughout the rib.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 1, wherein the rib further comprises:

a generally rectangularly shaped body including:

a first substantially flat section elevated from the barrier film; and

a second substantially flat section elevated above the first elevated section with respect to the barrier film.

9. (currently amended) A polymeric material vehicle barrier having at least one raised element, comprising:

a barrier film having a first layer and a polymeric second layer, the first layer including an interpolymer material;

at least one rib defining the raised element and a raised seal, the rib operably positioned adjacent an outer perimeter of the film, the rib including: [[; and]]

a substantially non-deflectable flat engagement surface;

a pair of opposed walls each connected between the engagement surface and the barrier film; and

a width of the engagement surface selectable to ensure each of the opposed walls deflects outwardly with no deflection of the engagement surface when the engagement surface contacts a body member of a vehicle; and

at least one drawn form positioned adjacent proximate the at least one rib operable to maintain a substantially consistent sealing force along the raised seal;

wherein the interpolymer material includes a density selectable to attenuate an acoustic energy through the film when the rib is in operable communication with a the body member of a the vehicle.

10. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, comprising a film volume wherein the first layer defines approximately sixty five percent of the film volume.

11. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, comprising a film volume wherein the first layer defines a percentage of the film volume ranging from approximately twenty percent to approximately ninety five percent.

12. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, wherein the density of the interpolymer material is at least 2.0 g/cm³.

13. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, wherein the interpolymer material comprises a filler having at least one of a calcium carbonate material and a barium sulfate material.

14. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, comprising:

a film thickness ranging from approximately 0.25 mm to approximately 1.52 mm; and

a film weight basis ranging from approximately 0.15 to approximately 0.50 lb/sq-ft.

15. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, comprising a nominal film thickness of approximately 0.76 mm.

16. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, wherein the second layer comprises a polyethylene material.

17. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 9, comprising an outward facing surface of the rib operably formed by the second layer.

18. (currently amended) A polymeric material vehicle barrier having at least one raised element, the barrier comprising:

a composite sheet having a plurality of apertures defining fastener attachment points operable to connect the barrier to ~~the~~ a vehicle trim piece;

a first sheet layer including an interpolymer material;

a second sheet layer including a polyethylene material; and

a raised rib defining the raised element formed about at least a portion of a perimeter of the composite sheet, the raised rib operable to form a seal between the composite sheet and ~~the~~ a vehicle body member, the raised rib including: [[; and]]

a substantially non-deflectable flat engagement surface;

a pair of opposed walls each connected between the engagement surface and the barrier film; and

a width of the engagement surface selectable to ensure each of the opposed walls deflects outwardly with no deflection of the engagement surface when the engagement surface contacts the vehicle body member;

~~an engagement surface of the raised rib rigidly supported by an opposed pair of deflectable walls;~~

wherein the barrier operably attenuates an acoustic energy between ~~a~~ the vehicle trim piece and ~~a~~ the vehicle body member.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 18, wherein the interpolymer material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer substantially filled with from approximately 50 percent to approximately 95 percent of an inorganic filler.

21. (previously presented) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 18, wherein the polyethylene material comprises one of a high density polyethylene, a medium density polyethylene, a low density polyethylene, and an ultra low density polyethylene.

22. (currently amended) The polymeric material barrier of Claim 18, comprising at least one molded form positionable between the vehicle body member and the vehicle trim piece operable to substantially equalize a sealing force along a length of the raised ~~perimeter~~ rib.

Claims 23-26 (Canceled)

27. (withdrawn) A method for forming an acoustic barrier, the barrier having an interpolymeric material and a polymeric material, the method comprising:
creating a film using the interpolymeric material and the polymeric material having the interpolymeric material in a first layer and the polymeric material in a second layer of the film;

forming a raised rib about at least a portion of a perimeter of the film;

positioning a raised form adjacent at least a portion of the raised rib, the raised form oriented directionally opposite from the raised rib; and applying a sealing strip to the raised rib.

28. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, further comprising simultaneously thermoforming the raised rib and the raised form.

29. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, further comprising die cutting a finished perimeter shape of the acoustic barrier.

30. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, further comprising adding a polymeric glass fiber material to the interpolymeric material.

31. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, further comprising co-extruding the first layer and the second layer.

32. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
separately forming the second layer; and
laminating the second layer to the first layer.

33. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:

extending the raised rib outwardly from the second layer of the film to operably form a first outward facing surface; and

extending the raised form outwardly from the first layer of the film to operably form a second outward facing surface; and

applying the sealing strip to the first outward facing surface.

34. (withdrawn) A method for forming an acoustic barrier positionable between component parts of an automobile vehicle, the method comprising:

molding a film having an interpolymeric material layer and a polymeric layer;

forming a raised rib that extends outwardly away from a first side of the film and about at least a portion of a perimeter of the film, the raised rib having an engagement surface supported by opposed walls;

creating a raised form that extends outwardly away from a second side of the film and oppositely directed from the raised rib;

applying a sealing strip along an outer face of the raised rib; and

positioning the form adjacent the raised rib such that a compressive force applied to the form acts to approximately equalize a sealing force about the raised rib by operatively deflecting the opposed walls.

35. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, further comprising forming a plurality of apertures between the raised rib and the perimeter.

36. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, further comprising decreasing a density of the polymeric layer to increase a thickness of the film.

37. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, further comprising positioning a release liner on the adhesive bead.

38. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 37, further comprising:
removing the release liner; and
applying the compressive force.

39. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, further comprising co-extruding the film.

40. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, further comprising injection molding the film.

41. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, further comprising forming the film of a foamed polymeric material using non-crosslinking concentrates.